

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number: 10

**This exhibit is in
regards to SB 123 ,
It contains several
different types of
materials to
numerous to scan.
Therefore only 10
pages have been
scanned to aid in
your research.**

**You may view the
original it is on file at
the Montana
Historical Society
and may be observed
there.**

38 names
&

95
letters

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 03/21/07
SB 123

ATTN: Montana State Legislators

We, parents and friends of the Hawthorne School Community in Missoula, strongly encourage you to support and fund full-day Kindergarten for the State of Montana. Please also consider, and pass, adequate levels of funding for all K-12 students in Montana.

Jean M. Thompson
Karen Gimpfield
Pat ~~Smith~~
Betsy Dinkley
S. ~~Smith~~
Nikki Gentry
Arl Beck
Pat Lubke
Beverly Beck
Clair Jaspersen
K. Sanders
Ken Sanders
Lorhy Stewart
Jesse Whit
~~Heather~~
Arl ~~off~~
Rachel Rebhan
Susan McKay
Cindy Amatt

Brian ~~Thompson~~
Kari Brown
Colin B. Brown
Jara Burba
Karen Bakken
Mabel Dgo
Jo ~~Harland~~
Tonya ~~Thompson~~
Jason Powell
Becca Femo
Mel Femo
Ray Dishon
Theresa ~~Chyn~~
Stacy Gordon
Kingeth ~~Heister~~
Linda ~~Burton~~
Cindy ~~Smith~~
Bobb Callaghan
Merry Cluney

Montana House of Representatives:

I beg you to appropriately fund education. Nothing in the budget is more important to the economy of Montana than good education for its students. Nothing will grow our economy faster and raise our revenues faster than a good workforce with good jobs that pay well, funded by companies who choose to locate in Montana because of the public school system and the university system. Our children deserve the best that we adults in Montana have to offer.

I recently attended a presentation on schools in Pakistan. There, communities are working hard to scrape together needed funds to build a school for the children. Shouldn't we be doing the same? In Montana, 2007, it appears that we have a surplus of available revenue. Wouldn't a wise investment of this revenue be in something that will continue to grow for Montana? Nothing will grow the economy more or be more beneficial for Montana families than a well funded, excellent school system.

One huge part of an excellent school system is the support of funds for full day kindergarten for those districts and those parents who feel that this program is in their children's best interest. Statistics show that early intervention helps all children with their future education. Isn't this a program we want available for every child?

Thank you for your time. I trust that you will all do the right thing for the children of Montana and fund our public schools completely.

Sincerely,

Carole Adde

March 16, 2007

Dear Legislator,

I am writing as an educator at Big Sky High School in Missoula. I am extremely concerned about the news coming out of Helena and am writing to plead with our state representatives to solve the problems of funding for public education. I have to believe that all of our elected officials want to serve their constituents and the children of Montana, providing for them the opportunities to receive the best possible education. As a teacher of U.S. History and World Geography, I understand the importance of a well-informed and literate electorate. Properly funding our public education system is the first step.

Governor Schweitzer's proposal embodied in SB 152 begins to address the needs of our schools. Most importantly, the bill funds full-day kindergarten. A good friend of mine teaches full day kindergarten at Lowell school in Missoula. I love the stories she shares about how her children look forward to their school day and how parents seem pleased with the results. It is essential to note that such a program is not mandatory, and the choice remains with parents.

Additionally, SB 152 increases overall state aid to public schools, funding for scholarships to Montana students attending state colleges, and forgives loans for teachers who begin their careers in Montana's needy rural areas. It seems that SB 152 is a long term and reasonable approach to meeting the NCLB guidelines.

Any attempt to prohibit funding of all-day kindergarten, at the very minimum, sends a clear message that Montana's legislators are not thinking of our most precious resource, our children.

Sincerely,



Janice K. Bishop
Teacher

Kathleen L. Cain
Title 1 teacher
Lowell School
1200 Sherwood
Missoula, MT 59802

Dear Montana Legislature:

Please give our schools adequate funding to ensure quality education for all children in Montana. This includes but is not limited to: qualified teachers, small class sizes, programs that support at risk students and full day kindergarten. Without adequate funding the quality of a Montana education is at risk.

Please fulfill your obligations to the citizens of Montana in the allotted time frame given for this legislation session. I have faith in our elected officials.

Thank you,

Kathleen L. Cain

Kathleen L. Cain, a concerned teacher and citizen of Montana

Dear Sirs,

I as a second grade teacher ~~support all day kindergarten~~. First, I feel that the exposure students can gain to literature through extra time with read alouds and hands on activities based on that literature is an important aspect of the development of a student educational life. Second, the social skills that can be taught through games, centers and peer interactions are vital to the development of a young child and their future peer relationships. Third, that the extra time will give teachers more flexibility to meet the developmental needs of their students with appropriate activities. Fourth, teachers can provide more individual time and attention to each student and family when they are working with twenty students rather than forty. Fifth, parents I have talked to are in support of all day kindergarten. Sixth, all kindergarteners would be able to participate in breakfast and lunch programs as well as after school activities with our extra parent transportation. I hope that in our changing world you will consider these young people and our future as one of your highest priorities by funding all day kindergartens.

Thank-you,
Carol Campbell
Missoula, Montana

YAHOO! MAIL

Print - Close Window

Date: Fri, 16 Mar 2007 11:48:37 -0700
From: "Nick Carter" <ncarter@mcps.k12.mt.us>
To: tonirehbein@yahoo.com
CC: "Nick Carter" <ncarter@mcps.k12.mt.us>
Subject: Education Funding

To the Montana State Legislature:

We have been in education for 30 years and feel that the kids of Montana are an important resource for the state. We ask that you fund education to the fullest possible extent. The Governor's proposal is a good place to start.

As an elementary teacher I, Cathy Carter, feel that Full Day Kindergarten is a very important consideration. In fact I am a Full Day kindergarten teacher at Lowell Elementary in Missoula. The benefits of a full day approach are very apparent to me.

As a principal of a middle school, full funding of education is very important. Full funding will allow the middle school model to stay in tact. This will allow students in middle school to get the fullest potential possible out of their educational. It will also keep classrooms from having 29 and 30 students in them.

As two long time educators we strongly ask that education be funded to it's fullest potential.

Thank you,

Curtis (Nick) and Cathy carter
3arcecape@msn.com

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<<<< GWAVASIG >>>>

I am writing in support of the bill to fund all day kindergarten.


I began teaching kindergarten at Missoula's Paxson School in 1976. At that time kindergarten had been recently established as a two and a half hour program focusing primarily on developing children socially and emotionally for first grade. Basic academic skills and physical activities were included. Most of the families at that time were two parent households with a "stay at home" mom. Thirty one years later in my classroom at Rattlesnake Elementary, I can only look back and remember when life was simpler.

Today, the majority of my students come with previous social experiences through pre-school, Head Start or day-care situations most of which are for longer time periods than our current half day program. Many of my families are single parents or two income families who struggle with the inconvenience of the half day schedule. This stress is transferred to the little ones who are always rushing to the next place.

As a teacher, with increased expectations to have my kindergarten students at benchmark levels in literacy acquisition, I feel rushed as well. Because I want what is best for my students, I spend hours during the day and lose sleep at night trying to figure out how I can effectively and efficiently present curriculum in Math, Science, Health, Social Studies and Language Arts along with Music, Library and Physical Education in two and a half hours for two separate classes a day as well as handling classroom management, behavioral issues and parent communication. At the end of the day, I always wish I had more time.

I fully support giving Montana School Districts the opportunity to create quality full day kindergarten programs which would allow ample time for academics as well as "child's time" to explore and experience the wonders of being five years old in a "Child's Garden". Take away the rush of the day for our youngest learners. Support families by relieving them of mid-day stressful transportation arrangements and boost kindergarten teachers with the joy of providing for the learning needs of twenty versus forty students per day.

Thank you for your strong consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,
Denise Giuliani 
Kindergarten Teacher
Rattlesnake Elementary, Missoula, Mt.

March 14, 2007

Christine Kolczak, MSW
4409 23rd Ave.
Missoula, MT 59803

State Legislators
Helena, MT

RE: Educational Funding for the state of Montana

Dear Professionals:

First of all, I applaud you for taking on such an important and responsible task. To be an elected official requires sacrifice, long hours and hard work. You are given the voice of your constituents, who are unable to do so themselves... except in this form.

I implore you to support education in the state of Montana. It is one of the most valuable things that we offer to our children. Schools spend more waking time with our children, daily than we do as parents. If any of you have had to secure daycare for a new child you will remember the requirements and expectations you had for that environment. We paid every month for daycare and had expectations for how our children would be taken care of.

The only difference with public education is that the payment is extracted and delivered in a different manor. In the end I still want that same environment for my children. I want them to be honored, challenged, well fed and cared for. In order to do so schools must be compensated appropriately. Teachers should love their jobs and their children and not be worried about what part-time job they can locate in order to pay for their basic needs. Teachers should stop paying for their classroom expenditures out of their own measly wages. When was the last time you paid for your own paper clips, pens, markers, staples, tape, paper, toner, and scissors? I imagine that it was provided for you here at the legislature today. I wish the same could be said for my childrens' teacher.

Full-day Kindergarten is an exceptional idea. Studies show that early childhood education is one of the most important pathways to developing a healthy brain. Our families in Montana want what is best for their children. Unfortunately, the poverty in our states requires both parents to work outside the home. That early childhood learning is not coming from parents. Daycares are a dropping place for our children while we work. They are not equipped or trained to provide early childhood education. Kindergarten is the solution.

I appreciate your time, and again thank you for your support of Montana's greatest asset, their children.

Sincerely,


Christine L. Kolczak

Mike Krause
2402 42nd Street
Missoula, MT 59803

March 15, 2007

Dear State of Montana Legislature:

I am writing to request your financial support of full day kindergarten. Current research shows that most full-day kindergarten students demonstrate somewhat higher academic and social achievement than half-day kindergarten students. Full-day kindergarten programs that are appropriate for kindergarten age children have been found to provide cognitive, social, physical, and emotional benefits for children. Supporting full day kindergarten would be an investment in Montana's future.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Krause". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Mike Krause

Rhonda Krause
2402 42nd Street
Missoula, MT 59803

March 15, 2007

Dear State of Montana Legislature:

I am writing to request your financial support of full day kindergarten. Current research shows that most full-day kindergarten students demonstrate somewhat higher academic and social achievement than half-day kindergarten students. Full-day kindergarten programs that are appropriate for kindergarten age children have been found to provide cognitive, social, physical, and emotional benefits for children. Supporting full day kindergarten would be an investment in Montana's future.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda Krause". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Rhonda Krause